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UNCLAS ANKARA 005531

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR IO/UNESCO JANE COWLEY

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: UNESCO CONVENTION DEMARCHE DELIVERED: TURKEY

SUPPORTS DRAFT CONVENTION

REF: STATE 170909

(SBU) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to Hande Ceylan, MFA Multilateral Cultural Affairs Department on September 22. Poloff explained US concerns regarding the draft Convention's possible infringement of human rights and freedom of expression. Ceylan noted Turkey would support the draft Convention as written with the following reservation: Article 20, Part One, Part B of the draft Convention is incompatible with Turkey's domestic legal procedures. Ceylan explained that the clause in that article would create difficulties for Turkey and therefore the minor reservation was necessary. Ceylan stated that the above position was not only that of the MFA, but also the position of all relevant Turkish authorities.
MCELDOWNEY